Mike Ringo Rare Coin Auctions

Presents

The Midnight Sale

Private Auction Sale

To be held in the Imperial Ballroom

of the 57 Park Plaza Hotel

April 22, 1991 Boston, Massachusetts

In Association with the 1991 EAC Convention

Walter Breen

U.S.
Rare

R56 M53

The Midnight Sale

Private Auction Sale
to be held in the luxurious Robert Martin Room
of the 57 Park Plaza Hotel
April 28, 1991 ~ Boston, Massachusetts
In Association with the 1991 EAC Convention

Mike Ringo Rare Coin Auctions

❁ TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE SALE ❁

1) Artillery lends dignity to what might otherwise be a vulgar brawl (Hey, this was written on one of the cocktail napkins we used for this important document, and it sounded good).

2) All lots are exactly what they are and any attempt to alter the reality under which they manifest themselves may disrupt the space-time continuum.

3) Under no condition shall bidding proceed in chronological order, contrary to progressive increments.

4) All floor bidders shall henceforth be referred to as witnesses and may be subject to subpoena at a future date.

5) No lots may be returned for any reason whatsoever, unless you are bigger than the auctioneer.

6) Mail bidders are encouraged to participate in this sale, but we shall not be held responsible for bidsheets that are received after the completion of the sale. As catalogues won't be mailed until years after the fact, we suggest that bid sheets be saved for paper training that new puppy.

7) This is a clean auction. No smoking, no drinking, no drugs, no ... never mind, the cops are gone. Do what you want.

8) All payment must be made in coppers of full legal weight. New Jersey coppers are no longer acceptable in payment at 14 to the shilling.

9) Owner of coins is encouraged to bid on all items, but is liable for a 10% house commission, plus all cataloguing, photography, printing, packaging, handling and legal fees (thanks Goudge!).

10) The losing party in any dispute arising as a result of this sale will be subject to arbitrary binding -- unless he likes it.

11) No lots may be returned in their original holder, and placing any coin in a holder negates all return privileges. Of course, rule number 5 still applies to all returns. Coins may only be slabbed by the Mike Ringo Coin Grading Service (MRCGS).

12) Lots will be on view from 12:42 A.M. until 12:45 A.M. There may be a slight wait for viewing, so please show up at least 30 seconds early.

13) Fake coins will be bought back at 10% over the hammer price.

14) This is a legal and binding document.

The Midnight Sale
"Worth Getting Out of Bed For!"

In its time, Boston has produced more than its fair share of revolutionary ideas. This was not one of them. This was a plain, old fashioned collector's sale of nearly fifty colonial coins. It was attended by a dozen collectors and dealers who were in town for the 1991 EAC Convention in Beantown. Some time around midnight, April 28th, in the privacy of Robert Martin's hotel room, we decided to hold an auction. Here, years after the sale, is the catalogue; believe us, the delay in getting the catalogue finished was typical of this strange night!

OWNER / AUCTIONEER / SHILL / MAIL BIDDER: Mike Ringo
CATALOGUERS: Walter Breen, Jeff Rock
CATALOGUE PRODUCTION: Jim Trethewey, Rob Retz

~ The Midnight Sale ~

SESSION ONE

SUNDAY MORNING • APRIL 28, 1991 • 12:45 A.M. SHARP

~ Lot 1 ~

Lot 1 obverse

1785 Connecticut, Miller 1-E, Rarity-5. Periods. Very Good, some details Fine. Similar overall to 1975 EAC:1. Highlights reddish from light cleaning.

$25 / $65, Mituzas

This coin has been submitted numerous times to Breen's Braille Grading Service. Records show that it was first submitted in April 1952 when it was graded MS65PQ.

Lot 1 reverse

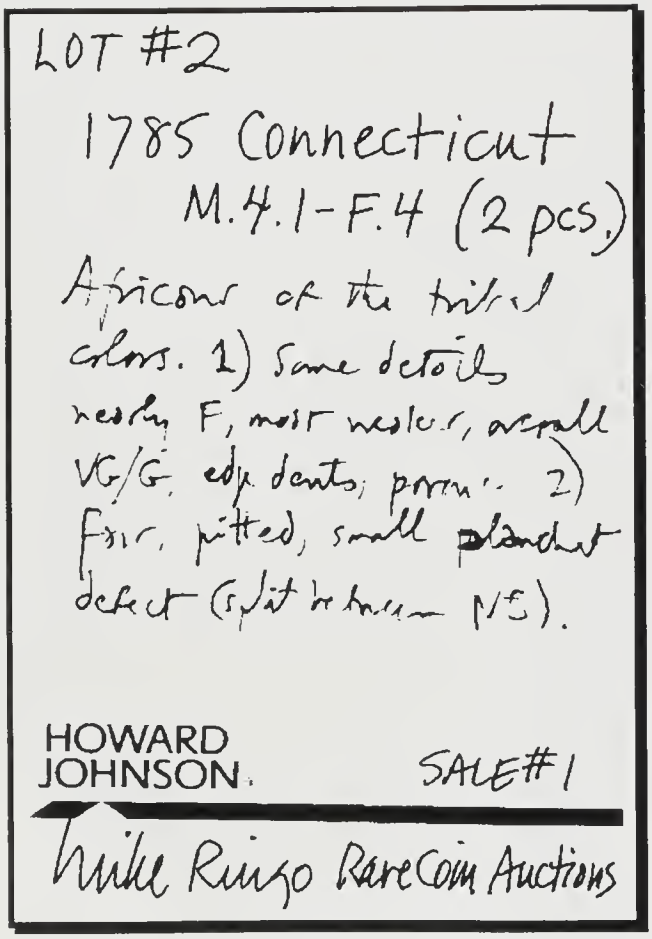
~ Lot 2 ~

1785 Connecticuts, Miller 4.1-F.4 (2 pieces). Africans of the Tribal Colors.

1) Some details nearly Fine, most weaker, overall VG/G, edge dents, porous.

2) Fair, pitted, small planchet defect (split between NE).

$20 / $45, Rock


LOT #2
1785 Connecticut
M.4.1-F.4 (2 pcs.)
Africans of the tribal colors. 1) Some details nearly F, most weaker, overall VG/G, edge dents, porous. 2) Fair, pitted, small planchet defect (split between NE).
HOWARD JOHNSON.
SALE#1
Mike Ringo RareCoin Auctions

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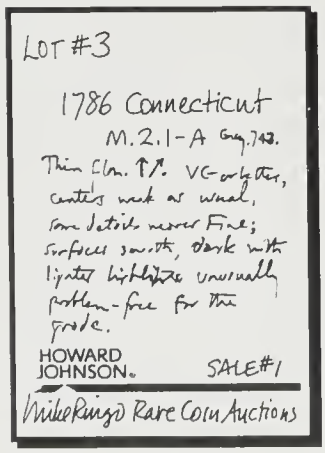
~ Lot 3 ~

Lot 3 obverse


LOT #3
1786 Connecticut
M.2.1-A
Thin flan. ↑↓. VG-or better, centers weak as usual, some details nearer Fine; surfaces smooth, dark with lighter highlights unusually problem-free for the grade.
HOWARD JOHNSON.
SALE #1
Mike Ringo Rare Coin Auctions

1786 Connecticut, Miller 2.1-A. Thin flan, dies rotated 30 degrees. Very Good or better, centers weak as usual, some details nearer Fine; surfaces smooth, dark with lighter highlights. Unusually problem free for the grade.

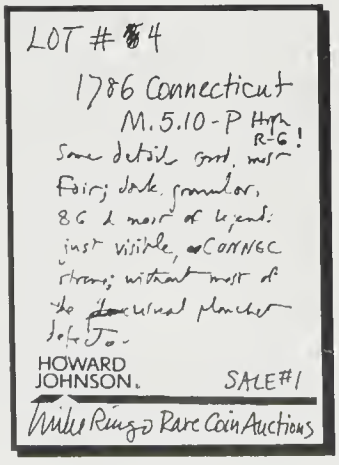
$25 / $65, Mituzas

There is no truth to the rumor that a young Bob Vlack posed for this coin, and we really wish collectors would stop referring to it as the "Vlack Head" variety.

Lot 3 reverse

~ Lot 4 ~

Lot 4 obverse


LOT #4
1786 Connecticut
M.5.10-P High R-6!
Some detail. Good, most Fair; dark, granular, 86 & most of legend just visible, CONNEC strong; without most of the usual planchet defects.
HOWARD JOHNSON.
SALE #1
Miller Ringo Rare Coin Auctions

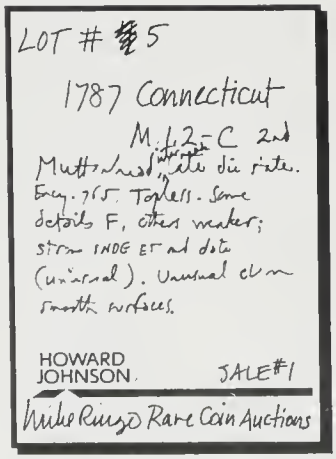
1786 Connecticut, Miller 5.10-P, High Rarity-6! Some details Good, most Fair. Dark, granular. Most of legends and 86 just visible, CONNEC strong; without most of the usual planchet defects.

$40 / $45, Spencer

Lot 4 reverse

~ Lot 5 ~

Lot 5 obverse



1787 Connecticut, Miller 1.2-C. Second Muttonhead, intermediate die state. Topless Liberty reverse. Some details Fine, others weaker; strong INDE ET and date (atypical). Unusual clean, smooth surfaces.

$50 / $120, Retz

We regret to inform collectors that Retz was arrested for possessing a pornographic coin after this sale (Ms. Liberty went topless for this variety), and the vice squad has stated that they

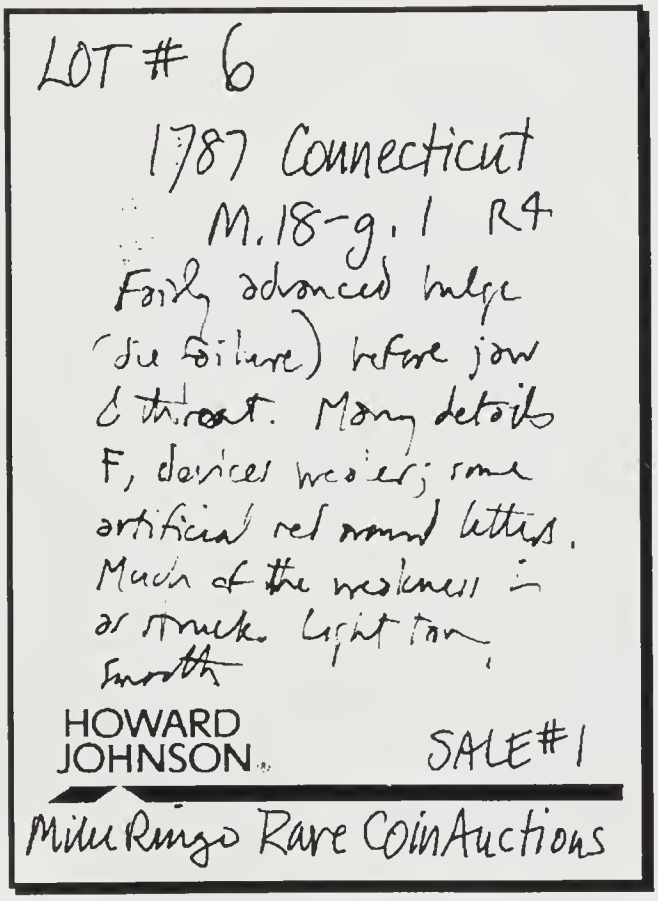
would confiscate all such material that came up at auction. To avoid a possible police record (or even a prison term), please send all of your Muttonheads (and 1916 Standing Liberty quarters) to Mike Ringo Rare Coin Auctions for proper disposal. Remember our motto here at MRRCA, "We give 'til it hurts!"

Lot 5 reverse

~ Lot 6 ~

1787 Connecticut, Miller 18-g.1, Rarity-4. Fairly advanced bulge (die failure) before jaw and throat. Many details Fine, devices weaker; some artificial red around letters. Much of the weakness is as struck. Light tan, smooth.

$35 / $65, Tanenbaum



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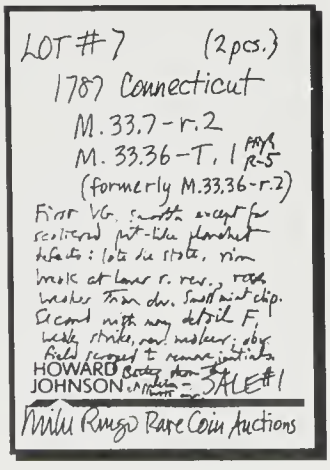
~ Lot 7 ~

Lot 7 (33.7-r.2) obverse


LOT #7 (2pcs.)
1787 Connecticut
M. 33.7 - r.2
M. 33.36 - T. 1 R-5
(formerly M. 33.36 - r.2)
First VG. smooth except for scattered pit-like planchet defects: late die state, rim break at lower r. rev., rev. weaker than obv. Small mint clip. Second with many details of F, weak strike, rev. weaker; obv. field scraped to remove initials
HOWARD JOHNSON
SALE #1
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Reverse Die Progression Pair. 1787 Connecticuts, Miller 33.7-r.2 and Miller 33.36-T.1, the latter High Rarity 5. First is Very Good, smooth except for scattered pit-like planchet defects; late die state, rim break at lower right reverse. Reverse weaker than obverse. Small mint clip. Second with many details of Fine, weak strike, reverse even weaker still. Obverse field scraped to remove initials; still better than the Appleton-MHS coin.

$50 / $70, Mituzas

Noted colonial researcher Michael Hodder (who unfortunately

couldn't be present at this sale but will be receiving a copy of this catalogue whether he likes it or not) has stated in his award winning article Die Progression and Recuttings of T and r family Connecticut reverse dies of 1787, A Scholarly and Detailed Look at This Unappreciated and Statistically Valuable Series, has stated that this reverse die started out as a 2.745 pound piece of British-imported steel, later engraved to the r.2 reverse. At some unknown time (though the author states he has a good case for 11:47 A.M. on October 9, 1787) the die was recut, by a left-handed nearsighted Irishman into the T.1 reverse. We have no reason to doubt the veracity of his statements but suggest that the die worker was probably of Welsh origin.

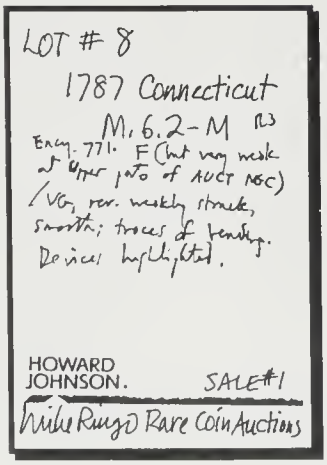
Lot 7 (33.7-r.2) reverse

Lot 7 (33.36-T.1) obverse

Lot 7 (33.36-T.1) reverse

~ Lot 8 ~

Lot 8 obverse


LOT # 8
1787 Connecticut
M. 6.2-M R3
Ex. 771. F (but very weak at upper parts of AUCT NEC)
VG, rev. weakly struck, smooth; traces of verdegris. Devices highlighted.
HOWARD JOHNSON.
SALE #1
Mike Ringo Rare Coin Auctions

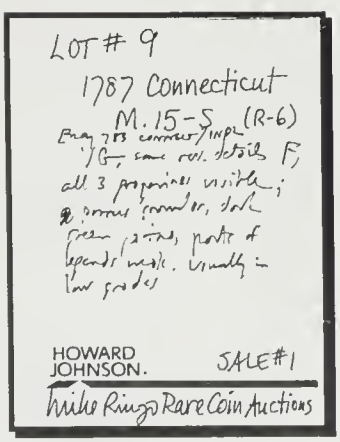
1787 Connecticut, Miller 6.2-M. Fine, but very weak at upper parts of AUCT and NEC. Reverse Very Good, weakly struck, smooth. Traces of verdegris, devices highlighted.

$35 / $75, Mituzas

Lot 8 reverse

~ Lot 9 ~

Lot 9 obverse



1787 Connecticut, Miller 15-S, Rarity-6. Very Good, some details Fine, all three grapevines visible. Porous and granular, dark green patina, parts of legends weak. Usually seen in low grades.

$100 / $160, Retz

Noted collector William Anton, Jr. observes that a specimen of this variety in his collection is double struck, off center and clipped, over a New Jersey copper (Maris 69-W) partial

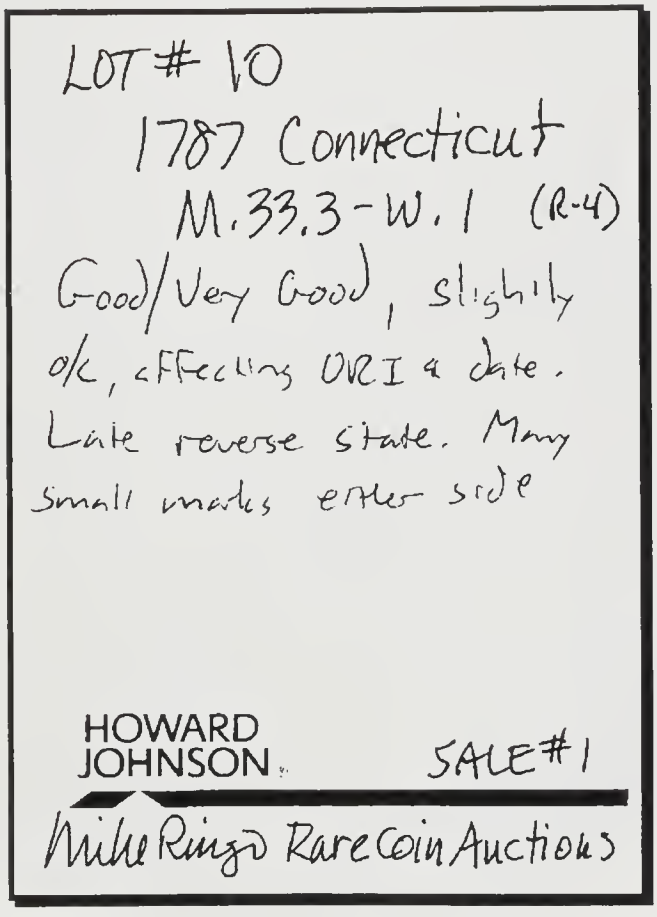
brockage cap, itself struck over a counterstamped Low-145 Hard Times token, proving that the Elizabethtown mint operated well into the 1830's. Or, it could be a piece of charcoal.

Lot 9 reverse

~ Lot 10 ~

1787 Connecticut, Miller 33.3-W.1, Good / Very Good, slightly off center, affecting ORI and the date. Very late reverse state, small marks on either side.

$20 / $40, Goudge

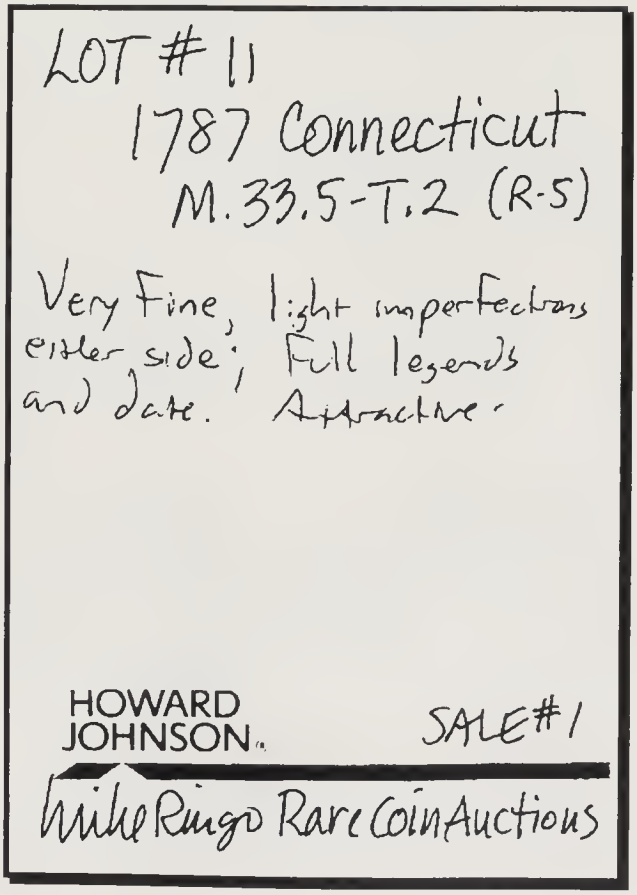


~ Lot 11 ~

1787 Connecticut, Miller 33.5-T.2, Rarity-5. Very Fine, light planchet imperfections either side; full legends and date. Attractive and scarce.

$50 / $100, Rock

Respected Connectiphile Robert Martin states that the so-called "Skeleton Hand" variety should actually be referred to as the "Gypsy Hand" (as he knows the Skeleton, and this is no Skeleton Hand).


LOT # 11
1787 Connecticut
M. 33.5-T.2 (R-5)
Very Fine, light imperfections either side; Full legends and date. Attractive.
HOWARD JOHNSON
SALE # 1
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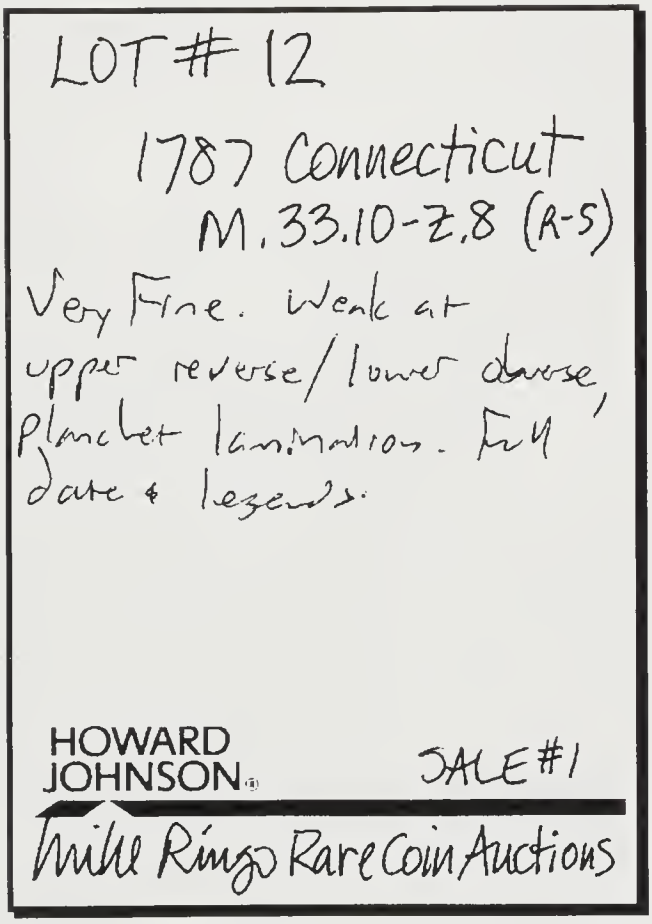
~ Lot 12 ~

1786 Connecticut, Miller 33.10-Z.8, Rarity-5. Very Fine, weak at upper reverse / lower obverse, one small planchet lamination. Date and legends full.

$50 / $110, Rock

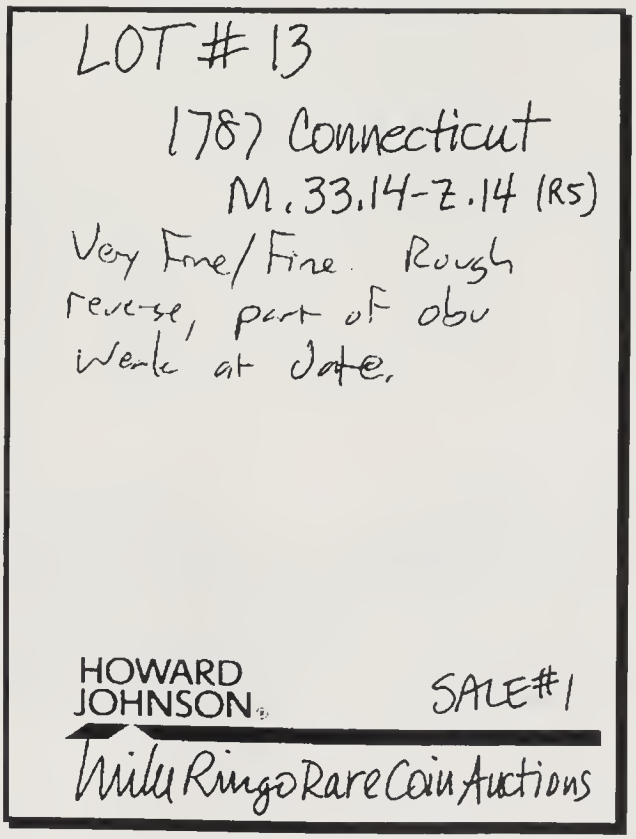

LOT # 12
1787 Connecticut
M. 33.10-Z.8 (R-5)
Very Fine. Weak at upper reverse/lower obverse, planchet lamination. Full date & legends.
HOWARD JOHNSON
SALE #1
Mike Ringo Rare Coin Auctions

~ Lot 13 ~

1787 Connecticut, Miller 33.14-Z.14, Rarity-5. Very Fine obverse / Fine reverse, full legends, date slightly weak. Rough area on the obverse, more so on the reverse.

$35 / $75, Rock

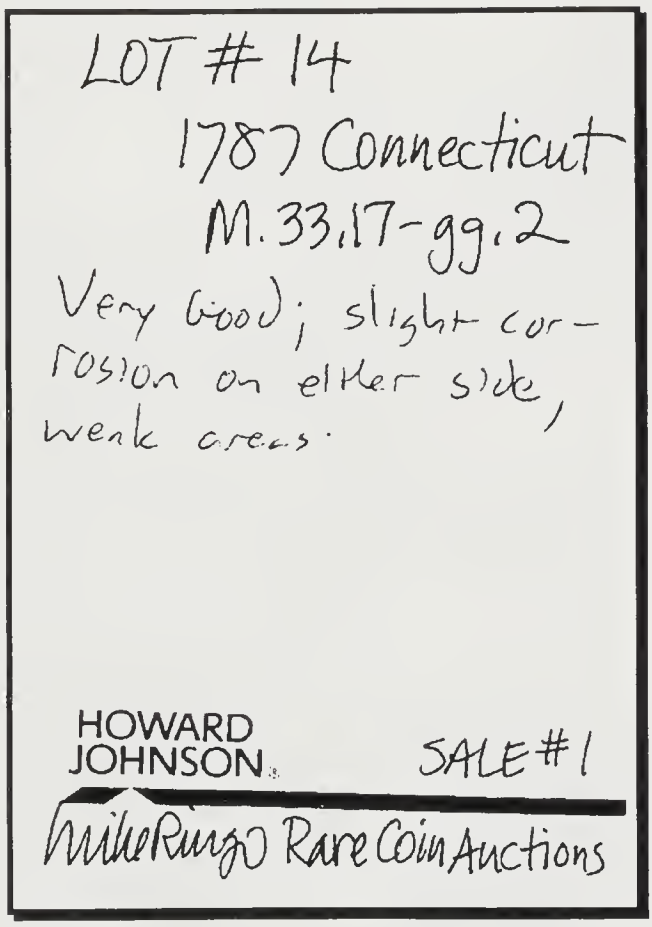
After the sale of this lot a previously unknown auction rule was enforced: any one person buying three or more lots in a row would have one leg broken by Mr. Ringo's personal bodyguard, Bruce. There was much laughter, and cookies and punch were served while a local doctor tried to set the bone.



~ Lot 14 ~

1787 Connecticut, Miller 33.17-gg.2. Very Good, slight corrosion on either side and with some localized weakness.

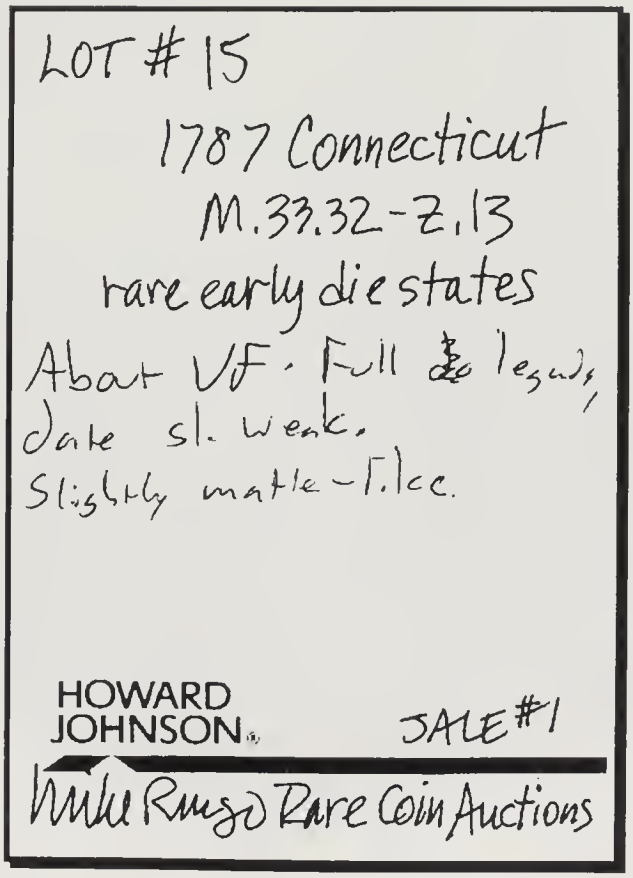
$50 / $55, Tanenbaum



~ Lot 15 ~

1787 Connecticut, Miller 33.32-Z.13, nearly Very Fine. Legends full, the date is weak but mostly there. Dark, slightly matte-like planchet.

$50 / $65, Tanenbaum



~ Lot 16 ~

Lot 16 obverse

1787 Connecticut, Miller 33.39-s.1, Very Good / Fine, slightly granular. Dark fields with lighter devices.

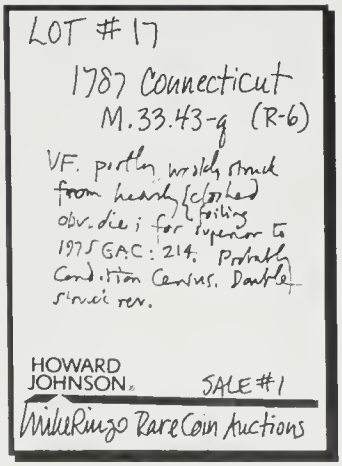
$10 / $30, Townson

This is a hitherto unknown specimen of an extremely common variety.

Lot 16 reverse

~ Lot 17 ~

Lot 17 obverse


LOT #17
1787 Connecticut
M.33.43-q (R-6)
VF. partly weakly struck from heavily clashed obv. die; far superior to 1975 EAC: 214. Probably Condition Census. Doubled struck rev.
HOWARD JOHNSON
SALE #1
Miller Ringo Rare Coin Auctions

1787 Connecticut, Miller 33.43-q, Rarity-6. Very Fine, partly weak struck from heavily clashed and failing obverse die; far superior to 1975 EAC: 214. Reverse slightly double struck. Probably Condition Census.

$200 / $310, Retz

This turned out to be the most expensive coin in the sale and was extensively reported in the pages of Coin World and Numismatic News as well as the Detroit Free Press. None of us

knew that Retz had so much money on him so after this lot we mugged him. You won't be seeing his name in the buyer's column anymore!

Lot 17 reverse

~ Lot 18 ~

1788 Triplets: An offering of three 1788 Connecticuts, Miller 2-D; three different obverse states.

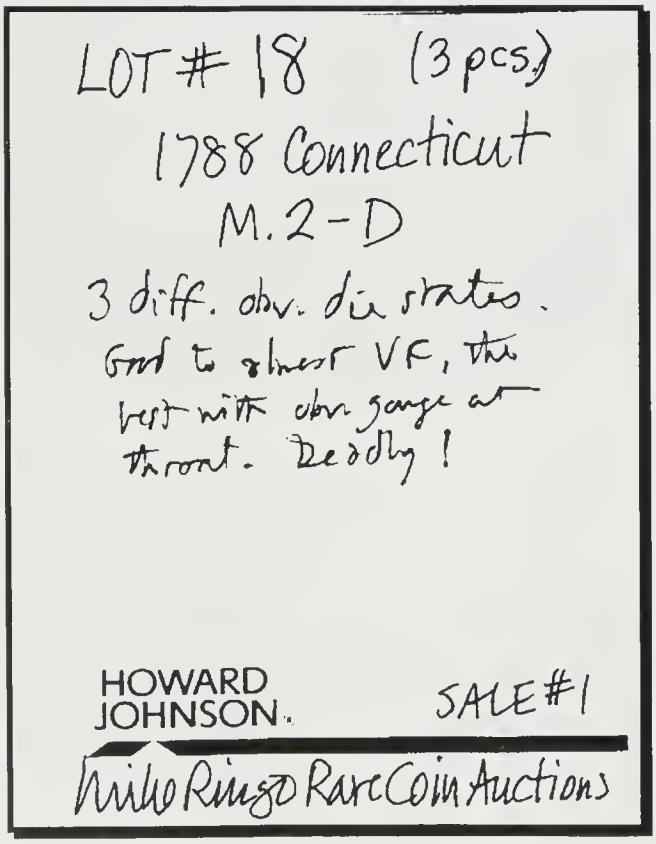
1) Very early, light break, Fine+, light golden brown, deep obverse gouge (*not* an obverse Goudge, since he was in the audience).

2) Slightly later, Very Good, "NB" scratched on the obverse, "PC" on reverse.

3) Later state, G / VG, weak, small new reverse scratch.

$10 / $35, Rock

People laughed even more at Rock for buying this lot until they found out that the initials on coin two stood for "Ned Barnsley's Private Collection." Now they're singing another tune as Rock has reportedly turned down an offer of $17.50 for the coin.



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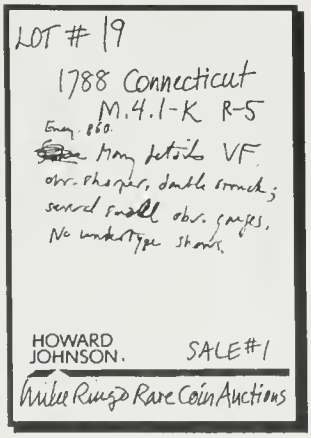
~ Lot 19 ~

Lot 19 obverse



1788 Connecticut, Miller 4.1-K, Rarity-5. Many details Very Fine. Obverse sharper, slightly shift double struck and with several small gouges (No, Jim did not bring his children with him. Yeah, I know, the joke is wearing a little thin). No visible undertype.

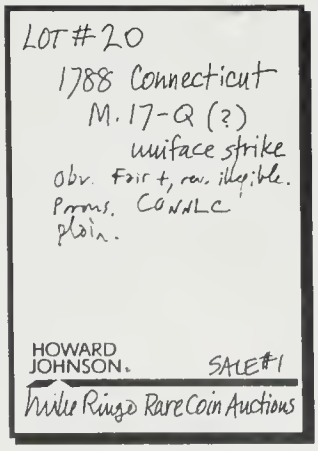
$50 / $130, Spencer

Dr. Michael Spencer obtained a little bit of auction history with the purchase of this lot: he became the first person to bid against himself not once but two different times. We needed the money and we are grateful. Mike, before the next auction, have a few more beers.

Lot 19 reverse

~ Lot 20 ~

Lot 20 obverse



1788 Connecticut, Miller 17-Q (?), Poor / Basal state. The obverse attribution is certain due to the position of legend (CO NEC.* visible), the reverse is completely illegible.

50¢ / $10, Spencer

A gem of a coin, we thought that PCGS should have bought it for their reference set.

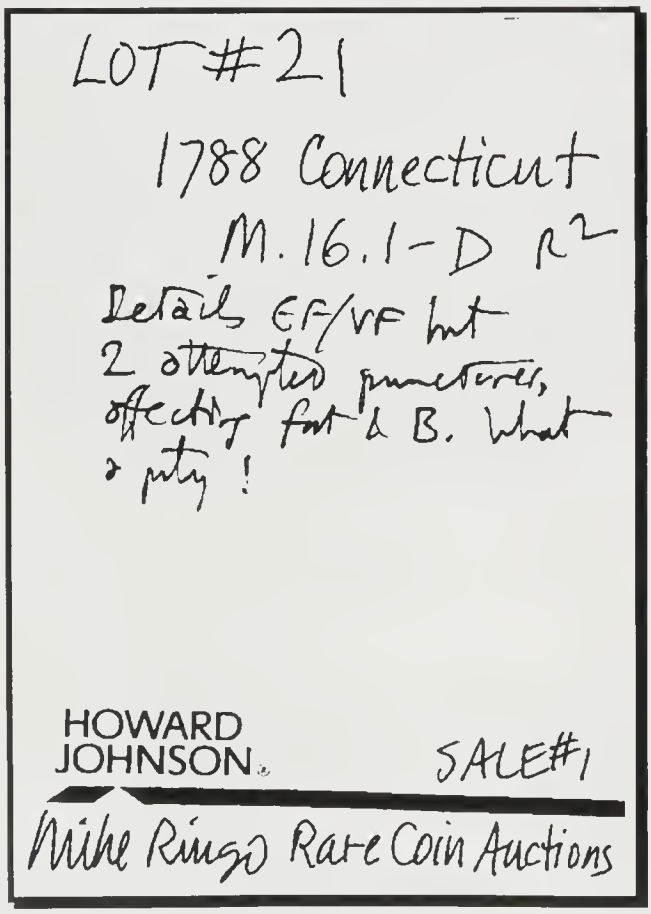
Lot 20 reverse

~ Lot 21 ~

1788 Connecticut, Miller 16.1-D, Very Fine / Extremely Fine detail, but two attempted punctures affecting Ms. Liberty's foot and the letter B. What a pity!

$20 / $25, Tanenbaum

The consignor has stated that the damage on this coin was caused close to the time of minting when the Indian who posed for the Massachusetts coinage accidentally shot it with his bow and arrow. Michael Hodder has located the probable site of this shooting using contemporary source documents. Gary Trudgen has written a biography of the Indian and has noted the very interesting fact that this rugged man was actually a female fan dancer named Mimi who had a brief affair with Joseph Perkins. Bill Anton and Bruce Kesse have taken a picture of themselves at the site and, yes, Kesse is wearing the same pair of jeans with the hole in the knee.



~ Lot 22 ~

Group of three 1787 Connecticuts:

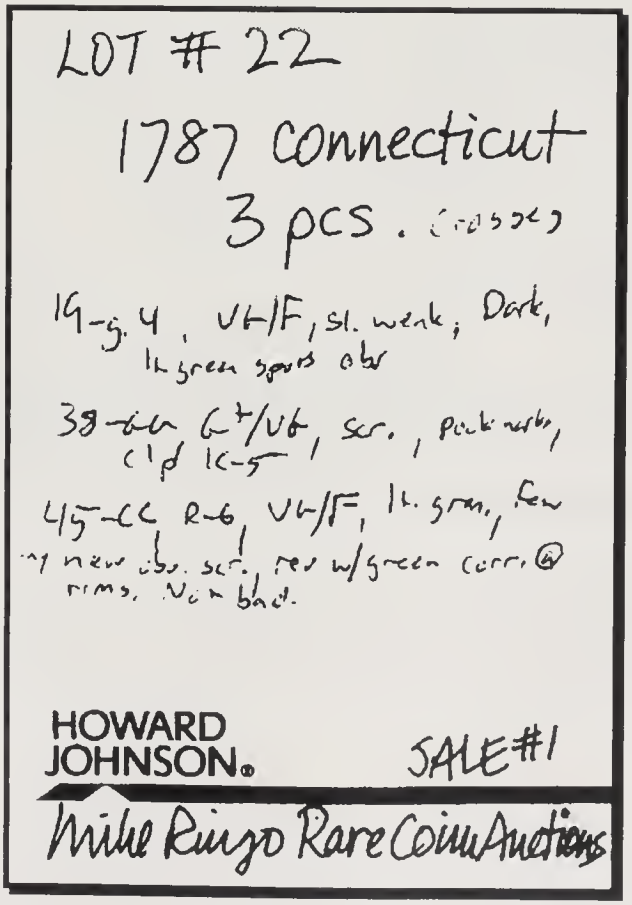
1) Miller 19-g.4, Very Good / Fine, slightly weak, dark, green spots on obverse.

2) Miller 38-GG, Good / Very Good, scratched, pockmarked and with a clip at K-5.

3) Miller 45-CC (Rarity-6), Very Good / Fine, lightly granular, few new obverse scratches, reverse with green corrosion at rims.

$50 / $140, Rinaldo

These lots were attributed after the sale, and represent the closest that anyone has come to cherrypicking something from Mike Ringo. According to Rinaldo he was able to retire after the sale of the third coin to noted collector George Perkins for a price approaching six figures.

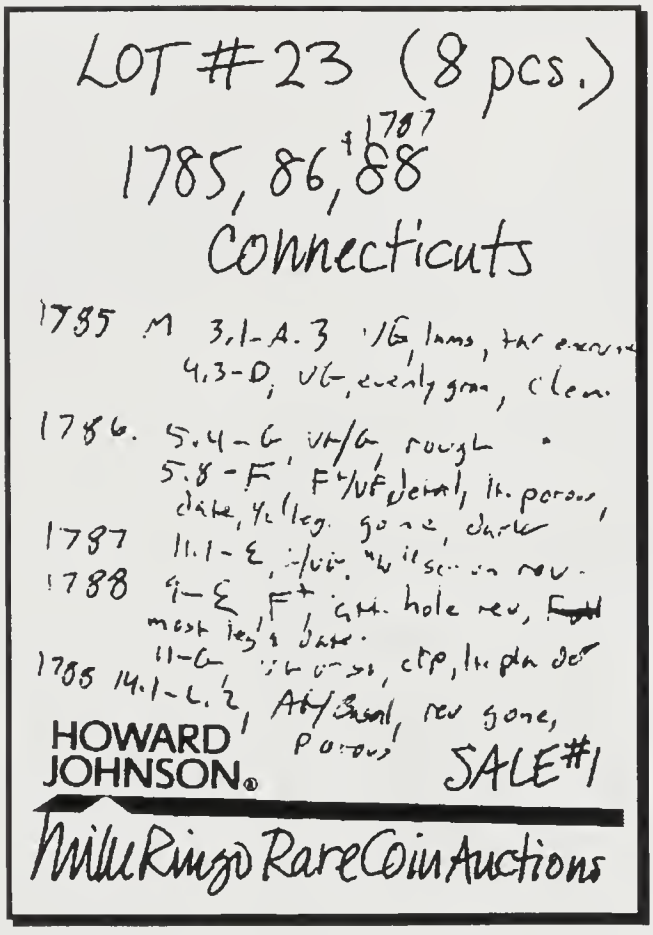

LOT # 22
1787 Connecticut
3 pcs.
19-g.4, VG/F, Sl. weak, Dark, lt green spots obv
clip K-5
45-CC R-6, VG/F, lt. gran, few new obv. scr, rev w/green corr. @ rims. Nice blnd.
HOWARD JOHNSON.
SALE #1
Mike Ringo Rare Coin Auctions

~ Lot 23 ~

Eight Pieces, a Year Set of Connecticuts and then some!

1) 1785 Miller 3.1-A.3, Very Good, laminated and with minor encrustation.

2) 1785 Miller 4.3-D, Very Good, evenly granular.



3) 1786 Miller 5.4-G, Very Good / Good, rough.

4) 1786 Miller 5.8-F, Fine / Very Fine detail, lightly porous, date and half the legend gone.

5) 1787 Miller 11.1-E, Good / Very Good, "W" scratched on obverse.

6) 1788 Miller 9-E, Fine+, attempted hole on reverse; most of legends and date visible.

7) 1788 Miller 11-G, Very Good, clip, light defects.

8) 1788 Miller 14.1-L.2, About Good / Basal, reverse completely gone, evenly porous; a good twin to the 17-Q offered earlier in this sale.

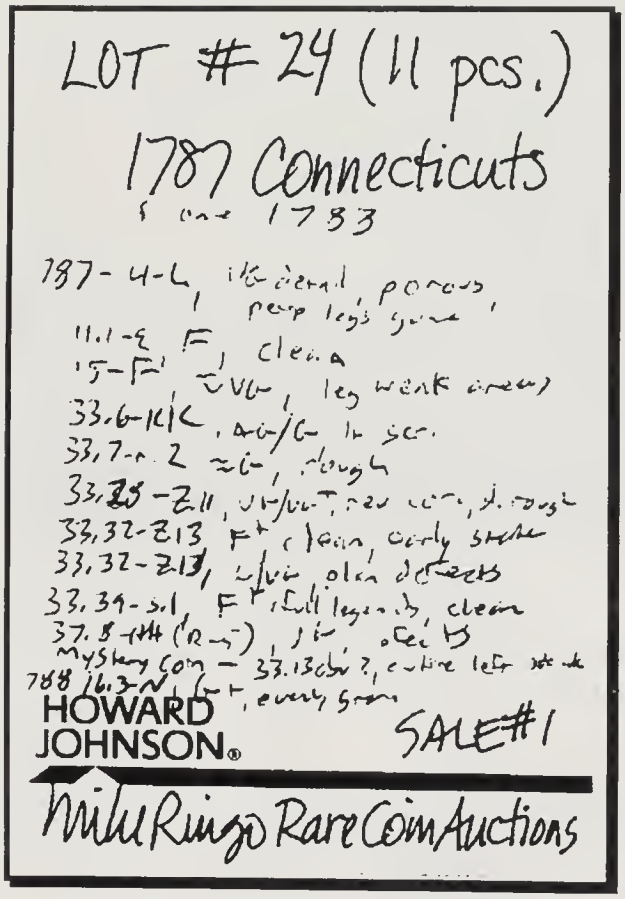
$50 / $80, Tanenbaum

We should note that though some of the prices in this sale may seem a trifle low, we purposely kept some of the "big money boys" like Tony Terranova and Donald Patrick away so that you, the small-time, unimportant collector, would have a chance to obtain some truly spectacular coins for your otherwise pitiful collections.

~ Lot 24 ~

Group Lot of Eleven 1787 Connecticuts and One 1788 Connecticut thrown in for no particular reason whatsoever except we wanted to make it an even dozen.

1) Miller 4-L, Very Good, porous, legends completely gone.



2) Miller 11.1-E, Fine, clean.

3) Miller 15-F, about Very Good, weak legends.

4) Miller 33.6-KK, About Good / Good, light scratches.

5) Miller 33.7-r.2, Good, rough.

6) Miller 33.28-Z.11, Very Good, reverse corroded and slightly rough.

7) Miller 33.32-Z.13, Fine, clean, early die state.

8) Miller 33.32-Z.13, another, Good / Very Good, light defects.

9) Miller 33.39-s.1, Fine, full legends, clean.

10) Miller 37.8-HH, Very Good, defects.

11) Mystery 1787 issue, possibly obverse 33.13, though the piece is extremely weak.

12) 1788 Miller 16.3-N, Good, evenly granular and generally unattractive.

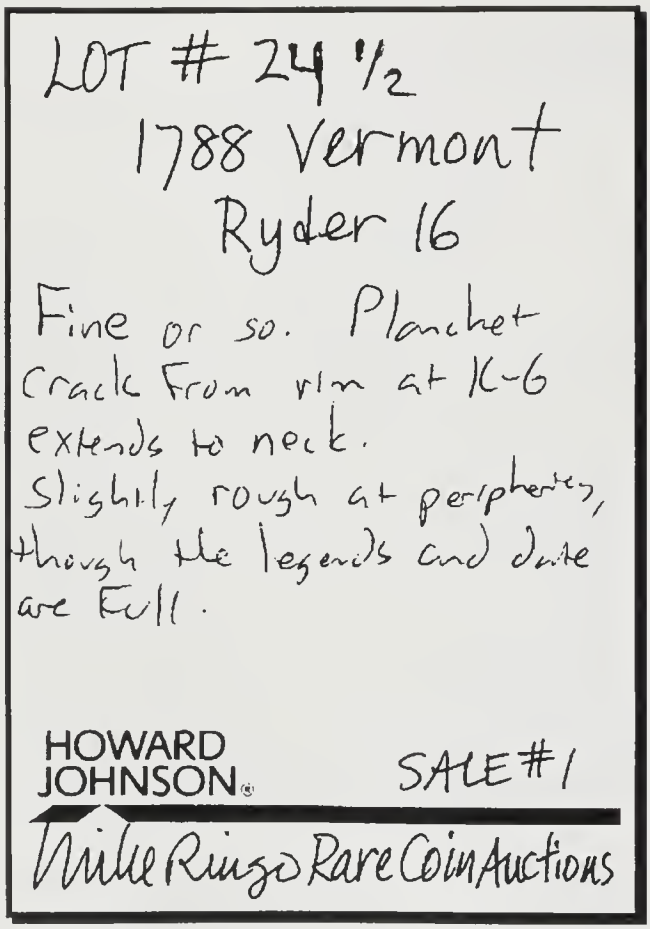
$50 / $100, Tanenbaum

~ Lot 24½ ~

1788 Vermont, Ryder 16. Fine or so, planchet crack from rim at K-6 to neck, slightly rough at peripheries. Full legends and date.

$50 / $60, Goudge

We don't know how this Vermont slipped in, and we do apologize for it. However, we note that researcher Gary Trudgen has not written an article on this variety which makes us suspect that it is even less interesting than we originally thought.



MIDNIGHT SALE PARTICIPANTS

From left to right: Walter Breen, Ed Sarrafian, Jeff Rock, Jim Goudge, Don Mituzas, Steve Tanenbaum, Tom Rindaldo, Robert Martin, Mike Ringo (seated), Dave Townson, Rob Retz, Dr. Michael Spencer.

Bidders were requested to wear dinner jackets. Only one, Dr. Michael Spencer, wore a jacket, and his dinner was all over it.

Bidder #	**Name**
1	Rob Retz (kind of an ego problem there, huh Rob?)
00	Steve Tanenbaum (just the opposite I guess!)
69	Dave Townson (I won't touch that one!)
932	Dr. Michael Spencer
Not 2B	Tom Rinaldo
9-76B	Don Mituzas
33.22-II	Jeff Rock
100^{100}	James H. Goudge
2.2-D.2	Robert Martin
GURU	Walter Breen
R5	Ed Sarrafian
4Q	Mike Ringo

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***Mike Ringo Rare Coin Auctions* cannot be held liable for bidsheets received late.**

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